

Message Text

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41

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 USIE-00 NSC-05 CIAE-00 PM-04

INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 H-02 OMB-01

EB-07 OFA-01 DLOS-04 SAM-01 IO-11 /090 W

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O R 161745Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5968

INFO COMICEDEFOR

CINCLANT

SECDEF

CNO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USNATO IMMEDIATE 1299

UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0092

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, IC, UK, NATO

SUBJECT: ICELAND-UK FISHERIES DISPUTE: LUNS PRESS CONFERENCE IN
REYKJAVIK JAN 15

1. SUMMARY. NATO SYG LUNS MADE FOLLOWING KEY POINTS AT
PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS IN REYKJAVIK:
HE WILL CONVEY HIS STRONG IMPRESSIONS TO HMG AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE AND WILL SEE CALLAGHAN ON MONDAY; HOWEVER, HE IS
NOT CARRYING SPECIFIC MESSAGE OR PROPOSALS FROM GOI. LUNS
IS "NOT WITHOUT HOPE" THAT SOLUTION IS POSSIBLE, AND "VERY
WARM" MESSAGE FROM CALLAGHAN HAD NOT DIMINISHED HOPE.
FIRST GOAL IS TO DEFUSE "DANGEROUS" SITUATION, AND TIME IS
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SHORT. ON OTHER HAND, LUNS STRESSED, GOI HAD ISSUED NO

ULTIMATUM. END SUMMARY.

2. SECRETARY GENERAL LUNS HELD HALF-HOUR NEWS CONFERENCE JAN 15 FOLLOWING DAY AND HOLF OF TALKS WITH GOI LEADERS AS WELL AS WITH OPPOSITION POLITICIANS AND LABOR AND FISHING INDUSTRY FIGURES. SYG BEGAN INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY NOTING THAT UK GIVERNMENT, THROUGH MESSAGE FROM FONSEC CALLAGHAN, HAD WELCOMED HIS DECISION TO COME TO ICELAND. LUNS SAID HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH HMG AS SOON AS HE RETURNED TO BRUSSELS AND THAT HE HOPED TO SEE CALLAGHAN THERE JAN 19. ASKED SUBSEQUENTLY IF IT WAS SIGNIFICANT THAT HE WAS NOT PROCEEDING DIRECTLY TO LONDON FROM REYKJAVIK, LUNS SAID THAT, CONTRARY TO REPORTS, UK WAS NOT "COOL" TO HIS MISSION. CALLAGHAN'S MESSAGE HAD BEEN "VERY WARM." BOTH WILSON AND CALLAGHAN WILL BE IN COPENHAGNE OVER WEEKEND, LUNS SAID, OTHERWISE HE WOULD HAVE GONE TO LONDON SATURDAY OR SUNDAY.

3. LUNS DECLINED TO GO INTO DETAILS OF WHAT HE WOULD CONVEY TO HMG BUT SAID, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, THAT HE WAS "NOT DESPONDENT." HE ADDED THAT HIS MESSAGE TO BRITISH WOULD BE BASED ON "STRONG IMPRESSIONS" DEVELOPED DURING TALKS IN ICELAND, BUT THAT HE WOULD NOT HAVE SPECIFIC MESSAGE FROM GOI. HE ALSO ADDED LATER THAT HE WOULD NOT BE TRANSMITTING TO UK SUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE FISH CATCH QUOTAS OR OTHER DETAILS RELATED TO SUBSTANCE OF DISPUTE.

4. LUNS SAID THAT WHAT IMPRESSED HIM IN REYKJAVIK WAS "THE TIME FACTOR...THERE IS NOT VERY MUCH TIME LEFT FOR A HAPPY SOLUTION..." HIS FIRST OBJECTIVE, LUNS SAID, WAS TO DEFUSE CURRENT "DANGEROUS" SITUATION. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS PLEASED THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO ULTIMATUM FROM GOI TO BRITISH. IF SITUATION COULD BE DEFUSED, NEXT STEP WOULD BE TO RESTORE NORMAL CONTACT BETWEEN DISPUTANTS AND THEN PROCEED TO DISCUSSIONS OF SUBSTANTIVE NATURE. HE DECLINED TO SAY WHAT SUBSTANTIVE AREAS HE THOUGHT MIGHT PROVIDE BASIS FOR AGREEMENT. ASKED WHAT WAS NEEDED TO RESTORE NORMAL CONTACT BETWEEN PARTIES, EG, REMOVAL OF WARSHIPS, LUNS SAID IT WAS "WELL KNOWN" THAT PRESENCE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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FRIGATES WAS "ONE OF THE GREAT OBSTACLES." HE DECLINED TO GO FURTHER IN THIS AREA.

5. MUCH OF OPENING STATMENT AS WELL AS SEVERAL QUESTIONS FROM NEWSMEN DEALT WITH RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FISHERIES DISPUTE ON ONE HAND AND NATO--PARTICULARLY ICELAND'S MEMBERSHIP IN ALLIANCE--ON OTHER. LUNS SAID ICELAND'S STRENGTH DERIVED IN LARGE PART FROM NATO MEMBERSHIP BE-

CAUSE ALLIES RECOGNIZE ADVERSE IMPACT THAT COD WAR HAS ON ICELANDIC ATTITUDES TOWARD ALLIANCE. HE SAID HE HAD HEARD COMPLAINTS THAT NATO HAD NOT PROTECTED ICELAND, AND WENT ON TO NOTE THAT ONLY "COUNTRIES OF ALLIANCE"--NOT SINGLE MEMBER--COULD RULE THAT AGGRESSION HAD OCCURRED AS DEFINED BY CHARTER. ASKED BY REPORTER IF "THREAT" BY ICELAND TO LEAVE NATO WAS REASON FOR HIS VISIT, LUNS SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO THREAT. ICELAND, HE SAID, HAD TAKEN ADVANTAGE --RIGHTFULLY--OF NATO MEMBERSHIP TO BRING TO ATTENTION OF ALLIANCE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCE IF SOLUTION IS NOT REACHED. ANOTHER QUESTIONER SAID THAT WHILE THERE MAY HAVE BEEN NO THREAT, WASN'T ICELAND USING MEMBERSHIP AS LEVER IN WHAT WAS BILATERAL MATTER? LUNS AGREED, BUT CITED PAST EXAMPLES WHEN MEMBERS HAD INTRODUCED ESSENTIALLY BILATERAL ISSUES INTO NATO FORUM. WHEN NEWSMAN MAINTAINED THAT WHEREAS GOI HAD PERHAPS NOT THREATENED WITHDRAWAL IT HAD WARNED OF REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP, WHICH IS IMPLIED THREAT, LUNS SAID GOI HAD EXPRESSED ITS WORRY THAT EVENTS MIGHT HAVE INFLUENCE ON ICELANDERS' ATTITUDE TOWARD NATO THAT MIGHT, IN TURN, LEAD TO SUCH REVIEW. THIS, SYG SAID, IS DISTINCT FROM IMPLIED THREAT BY GOI.

6. REPORTER COMMENTED THAT LUNS SOUNDED "SYMPATHETIC" TO ICELAND AND ASKED IF SYG WOULD CONVEY THIS ATTITUDE TO BRITISH, POSSIBLY BRANDING THEM "AGGRESSORS" AND CALLING ON THEM TO REMOVE FRIGATES. LUNS SAID THAT HE HAD NOT USED TERM AGGRESSOR. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT ALL NATO MEMBERS, INCLUDING, HE THOUGHT, UNITED KINGDOM, WERE AWARE OF "TREMENDOUS IMPORTANCE" OF FISHING INDUSTRY TO ICELAND. HE SAID THERE WAS GREATER DANGER TO FISH STOCKS NOW THAN HAD EXISTED IN PAST COD WARS. EXPERTS SEEM TO HAVE AGREED ON NEED FOR RESTRICTIONS ON ALL FISHING AROUND ICELAND.

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7. LUNS MAY HAVE SOMEWHAT BLIGHTED WHAT WAS OTHERWISE SKILLED PERFORMANCE WHEN, IN CLOSING REMARKS, HE REFERRED TO ICELAND AS "UNSINKABLE AIRCRAFT CARRIER."

8. ALL THREE MORNING PAPERS CARRIED ACCOUNT OF PRESS CONFERENCE ON FRONT PAGES. INDEPENDENCE PARTY'S MORGUNBLADID PROVIDED MOST PROMINENT TREATMENT, HEADLINING LUNS' HOPE OF DEFUSING DANGER AND FOLLOWING WITH DETAILED, OBJECTIVE RUNDOWN. PEOPLES ALLIANCE DAILY THJODVILJINN ALSO CARRIED FAIRLY DETAILED ACCOUNT WHICH WAS REASONABLY STRAIGHTFORWARD EXCEPT FOR DIG AT GOVERNMENT FOR HAVING POSSIBLY ABANDONED THREAT TO BREAK RELATIONS WITH UK AS INDICATED BY LUNS' OBSERVATION THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO ULTIMATUM FROM ICELANDERS. PROGRESSIVE PARTY'S TIMINN

PROVIDED BRIEF, OBJECTIVE SUMMARY, HIGHLIGHTING LUNS'
EXPRESSED HOPE FOR DEFUSING CURRENT SITUATION. THERE WAS
NO EDITORIAL COMMENT IN AM PAPERS.
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